WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   1.   A method for filtering content, comprising:
2.   receiving at a content filtering router a packet containing a
3.   request for content, where said packet comprises a first destination
4.   Internet Protocol (IP) address of a content server that stores said
5.   content and a second destination IP address of said content filtering
6.   router;
7.   determining whether said first destination IP address is on a list
8.   of destination IP addresses to be filtered; and
9.   routing said packet to an output port on said content filtering
10.   router based on said first destination IP address and said list.

1.   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises
2.   ascertaining that said first IP address is on said list, and wherein said routing
3.   comprises directing said packet someplace other than said first destination IP
4.   address.

1.   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises
2.   ascertaining through which output port said packet should be forwarded
3.   based on said first destination IP address and a routing table stored on said
4.   content filtering router.

1.   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein said ascertaining utilizes a routing
2.   protocol to determine said output port.

1.   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein said routing protocol is a Border
2.   Gateway Protocol (BGP).

1.   6.   The method of claim 3, wherein said routing table is a Border Gateway
2.   Protocol (BGP) table.

1   7.   The method of claim 2, wherein said directing comprises sending said

2   packet to an additional content filtering router, where said packet comprises a

3   third destination IP address of said additional content filtering router.

1   8.   The method of claim 2, wherein said directing comprises sending said

2   packet to a service provider, such that said service provider can notify a user

3   who made said request that said content has been blocked.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising, before said receiving,

2   accepting said first destination IP address and an associated

3   output port on said content filtering router; and

4   storing said first destination IP address and said associated

5   output port in said list on said content filtering router.

1   10.   The method of claim 8, wherein said storing comprises saving said first

2   destination IP address and said associated output port in a routing table on

3   said content filtering router.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises

2   ascertaining that said first IP address is not on said list.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising removing said second

2   destination IP address from said packet.

1   13.   The method of claim 11, wherein said routing comprises directing said

2   packet toward said first destination IP address.

1   14.   A method for filtering content, comprising:

2   receiving at an Internet Protocol (IP) communications device a

3   packet containing a request for content where said packet comprises a

4   source IP address of a client computer from where the request

5   originated and a first destination IP address of a content server that

6   stores said content;

7   determining that said request is to be subjected to a content

8   filtering service, based on said destination IP address;

9   adding a second destination IP address of a content filtering

10   router to said packet; and

11   sending said packet toward said content filtering router.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, further comprising, prior to said adding,

2   determining how many content filtering levels said request is to be subjected

3   to.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, wherein said adding further comprises adding

2   an additional destination IP address to said packet for each of said content

3   filtering levels.

1   17.   The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2   receiving said content from said content server, when said first

3   destination IP address was not on a routing table on said content

4   filtering router; and

5   sending said content to said source IP address.

1   18.   The method of claim 14, further comprising, before said receiving,

2   acquiring said source IP address and an indicator of whether

3   said content filtering service is to be applied to said source IP address;

4   storing said source IP address and said indicator.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein said acquiring further comprises

2   obtaining a filtering level associated with said source IP address.

1   20.   The method of claim 14, further comprising, before said receiving,

2   acquiring a list of filtering levels and associated second

3   destination IP addresses, where each filtering level is associated with a

4   different second destination IP address of a different content filtering

5   router;

6   storing said list of filtering levels and associated second

7   destination IP addresses.

1   21.   A content filtering router, comprising:

2   a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

3   communications circuitry;

4   input ports;

5   output ports; and

6   a memory containing:

7   an operating system;

8   communication procedures configured to receive a

9   packet containing a request for content, where said packet

10   comprises a first destination Internet Protocol (IP) address of a

11   content server that stores said content and a second destination

12   IP address of said content filtering router;

13   a routing protocol comprising:

14   instructions for determining whether said first

15   destination IP address is on a list of destination IP

16   addresses to be filtered; and

17   instructions for routing said packet to one of said output

18   ports based on said first destination IP address and said list;

19   and

20   a routing table containing said list.

1   22.   A bidirectional Internet Protocol (IP) communications device,

2   comprising:

3   a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

4   communications circuitry; and

5	input/output ports; and
6	a memory containing:
7	an operating system;
8	communication procedures comprising:
9	instructions for receiving a packet containing a
10	request for content where said packet comprises an
11	source IP address of a client computer from where the
12	request originated and a first destination IP address of a
13	content server that stores said content; and
14	instructions for sending said packet toward a
15	content filtering router;
16	filtering procedures comprising:
17	instructions for determining that said request is to
18	be subjected to a content filtering service, based on said
19	destination IP address; and
20	instructions for adding a second destination IP
21	address of said content filtering router to said packet
22	before it is sent toward said content filtering router.

1	23. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer
2	system for content filtering, the computer program product comprising a
3	computer readable storage and a computer program stored therein, the
4	computer program comprising:
5	instructions for receiving at an Internet Protocol (IP)
6	communications device a packet containing a request for content
7	where said packet comprises an source IP address of a client
8	computer from where the request originated and a first destination IP
9	address of a content server that stores said content;
10	instructions for determining that said request is to be subjected
11	to a content filtering service, based on said destination IP address;
12	instructions for adding a second destination IP address of a
13	content filtering router to said packet; and

14   instructions for sending said packet toward said content filtering

15   router.

1   24.   A system for content filtering, comprising an Internet Protocol (IP)

2   communications device coupled between at least one client computer and at

3   least one filtering router, where said IP communications device is configured

4   to route requests for content received from said at least one client computer

5   toward said at least one filtering router, and where said at least one filtering

6   router is configured to route said requests for content someplace other than a

7   content server that stores said content when said content server's IP address

8   is on a list of addresses to be filtered, where said list is a routing table stored

9   on said content filtering router.

1   25.   The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one filtering router is

2   further configured to route said requests for content to said content server

3   when said content server's IP address is not on said list of addresses to be

4   filtered.